

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A lifting device comprising: (1)  
—— ~~having~~ a top part (3) and a bottom part (2),  
—— ~~having~~ a lifting linkage that (4) ~~which~~ connects the top part (3) to the bottom part (2) and has at least two sub-linkages (5, 6) connected to one another via a central articulation (16), and  
—— ~~having~~ a drive unit that is operable to adjust (12, 14, 15, 19) ~~for adjusting~~ the height of the top part (3), and ~~characterized in that the drive unit (12, 14, 15, 19) acts act~~ laterally on the central articulation (16) such that the latter, ~~and thus the lifting linkage (4), can~~ be ~~is~~ displaced in the vertical direction, the lifting linkage (4) being supported on the bottom part (2) by way of spaced-apart scissors feet (7, 8) of the bottom sub-linkage (6).
2. (currently amended) The lifting device (1) as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in~~ that the drive unit (12, 14, 15, 19) has a spindle (15), which is fastened on the central articulation (16), and a motor (12, 19).
3. (currently amended) The lifting device (1) as claimed in claim 2 3, ~~characterized~~ ~~in that~~ wherein the spindle (15) is a trapezoidal spindle.
4. (currently amended) The lifting device (1) as claimed in claim 2 ~~or 3~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the motor (12) is fastened on the bottom part (2).
5. (currently amended) The lifting device (1) as claimed in claim 2 ~~or 3~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the motor (19) is fastened on the central articulation (16).
6. (currently amended) The lifting device 1 as claimed in ~~one of the preceding~~ ~~claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1 wherein the sub-linkage (6) is connected to the bottom part (2) in an articulated manner by ~~way of its~~ front scissors feet (7) and is fastened on the bottom part (2) by ~~way of its~~ rear scissors feet (8) such that it the sub-linkage runs over the bottom part

(2) when the height of the top part (3) is adjusted.

8. (currently amended) A method of adjusting the height of a top part (3) of a lifting device, the method comprising (1) by means of using a drive unit ~~(12, 14, 15, 19)~~, the top part (3) being connected to a bottom part (2) via a lifting linkage (4) and the lifting linkage (4) having at least two sub-linkages ~~(5, 6) which are~~ connected to one another via a central articulation ~~(16)~~ and are ~~designed as~~ scissors structures, characterized in that the drive unit ~~(12, 14, 15, 19)~~ acts laterally on the central articulation ~~(16)~~ such that the ~~latter~~ central articulation and thus the lifting linkage (4), ~~can be~~ are displaced in the vertical direction, the lifting linkage (4) being supported on the bottom part (2) by way of spaced-apart scissors feet ~~(7, 8)~~ of the bottom sub-linkage (6).

9. (new) The lifting device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the central articulation moves rectilinearly.

10. (new) The lifting device as claimed in claim 1, wherein one of the at least two sub-linkages connected to the bottom part.

11. (new) The lifting device as claimed in claim 10, wherein the one of the at least two sub-linkages comprises front feet fastened on the bottom part and rear scissor feet that are operable to slide over the bottom part when the height of the top part is adjusted.